

or less throughout the day, and are active in their habits, apparently having constant feuds with each other, and chasing one another about on the wing. If disturbed, they always fly to cover, unless very close to it.

THALASSORNIS LEUCONOTUS (Smith). Fasciated Duck.

Male and female. Iris dark brown; bill black and slate-coloured, mottled; under mandible yellowish; tarsi and feet very dark brown. The males are rather larger than the females. They frequent the lagoons and marshes at the mouths of the Natal rivers, and appear to feed principally on the seeds of water-plants, which there abound. They are very expert divers, and although their wings are short and small, they fly swiftly and well, rising without difficulty from the water. If not too suddenly disturbed, they invariably dive to cover.

During the summer months they are gregarious, pairing off in the early winter. In August the young birds are to be seen, newly hatched, swimming actively about, escorted by their parents, the male bird taking equal care of the family (which generally consists of from four to eight) with the female.

VIII.—*Notice on the occurrence of the Red-necked Goatsucker (Caprimulgus ruficollis) in England.* By JOHN HANCOCK.

So far back as the 6th of October, 1856, I obtained a fresh-killed specimen of this rare European Goatsucker of Mr. Pape, a game-dealer of this town. It had been shot the previous day at Killingworth, near Newcastle. I was unable to determine the sex from dissection, but I think it is most probably a male, as the first primaries have each a spot upon their inner webs, and the first two spots are white.

I have delayed until now making this announcement; for I found, on comparison, that the bird in question differed slightly from a Hungarian specimen in my collection, and I was consequently anxious to see others before doing so. I have now had an opportunity of referring to a specimen in the British Museum, and find that it quite agrees with my bird. I have therefore no longer any hesitation in stating that it is the true *C. ruficollis* of authors, and I have much pleasure in adding this fine

species to the British list of occasional visitors; though I am far from believing that this is really its first occurrence in our island. It very closely resembles the *C. europæus*, and is almost sure to be confounded with that species by the casual observer.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, 12 Sept. 1861.

IX.—*Review of Drs. BLASIUS's and BALDAMUS's Continuation of Naumann's 'Vögel Deutschlands.'**

IF a prophet has no honour in his own country, the rule is different as regards the naturalist. None of the sciences seem to have been so much tinged by local colouring as those which have to do with the Earth and its inhabitants. Geologists have even made it a subject of complaint that the progress of their study was actually hindered by the partial and partisan treatment it received from its early votaries. Accustomed as we in England are to reverence those who have laboured to elucidate the fauna and flora of these islands, we cannot be surprised that the same feelings should animate our Teutonic brethren.

Justly then is the name of NAUMANN dear to the German lovers of nature, for the two ornithologists who have borne it have collectively done more perhaps to add to the knowledge of their country's birds than all its other writers put together; though it cannot be denied that the reputation of the father, respectable as it was, would probably have by this time been shrouded in obscurity but for the lustre shed upon it by the labours of the son. The only British naturalist whose writings have placed him among his nation's classical authors—Gilbert White—has well said that "Every kingdom, every province, should possess its own monographer;" and to this honourable title in the department of German ornithology none have more right than the two authors of the '*Naturgeschichte der Vögel Deutschlands.*'

The elder Naumann—Johann Andreas—born in 1744, com-

* *J. A. Naumann's Naturgeschichte der Vögel Deutschlands. Fortsetzung der Nachträge, Zusätze und Verbesserungen von Dr. J. H. BLASIUS, Dr. ED. BALDAMUS, und Dr. FR. STURM. Dreizehnter Theil. 8 Lieferung. Schluss des ganzen Werkes. Stuttgart: 1860.*